NUMB. XC[illegible]

The GUARDIAN.

Cuncti adsint, meritæque; expectent præmia palmæ. Virg.

Wednesday, July 1. 1713.

THERE is no Maxim in Politicks more indisputable, than that a Nation should have many Honours in reserve for those who do National Services. This raises Emulation, cherishes Publick Merit, and inspires every one with an Ambition which promotes the Good of his Country. The less expensive these Honours are to the Publick, the more still do they turn to its Advantage.

The *Romans* abounded with these little Honorary Rewards, that without conferring Wealth or Riches, gave only Place and Distinction to the Person who received them. An Oaken Garland to be worn on Festivals and Publick Ceremonies, was the glorious Recompence of one who had covered a Citizen in Battle. A Soldier would not only venture his Life for a Mural Crown, but think the most hazardous Enterprize sufficiently repaid by so noble a Donation.

But among all Honorary Rewards which are neither dangerous nor detrimental to the Donor, I remember none so remarkable as the Titles which are bestowed by the Emperor of *China*. These are never given to any Subject, says Monsieur *le Conte*, 'till the Subject is dead. If he has pleased his Emperor to the last, he is called in all Publick Memorials by the Title which the Emperor confers on him after his Death, and his Children take their Rank accordingly. This keeps the Ambitious Subject in a perpetual Dependence, making him always Vigilant and Active, and in every thing conformable to the Will of his Sovereign.

There are no Honorary Rewards among us, which are more esteemed by the Person who receives them, and are cheaper to the Prince, than the giving of Medals. But there is something in the Modern Manner of celebrating a great Action in Medals, which makes such a Reward much less valuable than it was among the *Romans*. There is generally but one Coin stampt upon the Occasion, which is made a Present to the Person who is celebrated on it. By this means his whole Fame is in his own Custody. The Applause that is bestowed upon him is too much limited and confined. He is in Possession of an Honour which the World perhaps knows nothing of. He may be a great Man in his own Family; His Wife and Children may see the Monument of an Exploit, which the Publick in a little time is a Stranger to. The *Romans* took a quite different Method in this Particular. Their Medals were their Current Mony. When an Action deserved to be recorded on a Coin, it was stampt perhaps upon an hundred thousand Pieces of Mony like our Shillings, or Half-pence, which were issued out of the Mint, and became Current. This Method published every noble Action to Advantage, and in a short space of Time spread through the whole *Roman* Empire. The *Romans* were so careful to preserve the Memory of great Events upon their Coins, that when any particular Piece of Mony grew very scarce, it was often Re-coined by a succeeding Emperor, many Years after the Death of the Emperor to whose Honour it was first struck.

A Friend of mine drew up a Project of this Nature during the late Ministry, which would then have been put in execution, had it not been too busie a time for Thoughts of that Nature. As this Project has been very much talked of by the Gentleman above-mentioned to Men of the greatest Genius, as well as Quality, I am informed there is now a Design on foot for executing the Proposal which was then made, and that we shall have several Farthings and Half-pence charged on the Reverse with many of the glorious Particulars of her Majesty's Reign. This is one of those Arts of Peace which may very well deserve to be cultivated, and which may be of great use to Posterity.

As I have in my Possession the Copy of the Paper above-mentioned, which was delivered to the late Lord Treasurer, I shall here give the Publick a Sight of it. For I do not question, but that the curious Part of my Readers will be very well pleased to see so much Matter, and so many useful Hints upon this

(Price Two Pence.)